

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02343 161630Z

62

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 INR-01 /005 W

----- 071778

O R 160830Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4991

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 2343

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

KHMER SITUATIONER

1. THE KHMER ARMY'S 11TH BRIGADE RETURNED TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM YESTERDAY AFTER COMPLETING A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FIVE-DAY, NINETY-KILOMETERS, ROUND TRIP FORAY ON FOOT AGAINST THE COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPLY BASE AT STRONG. DURING ITS DEEP THRUST INTO THE COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD, THE 11TH BRIGADE DESTROYED 11 WAREHOUSES, KILLED AT LEAST 11 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS, AND TOOK FOUR PRISONERS.

2. ON THE RETURN MARCH TO KOMPONG THOM, THE BRIGADE PROVIDED FLANKING COVER FOR AN ESTIMATED TEN THOUSAND VILLAGERS WHO MADE THE DECISION TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN THE FORMER FIRMLY COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED STOUNG AREA AND SEEK KHMER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PHNOM 02343 161630Z

GOVERNMENT PROTECTION AT KOMPONG THOM. A LINE OF REFU-

GEES, OXCARTS, AND CATTLE SEVEN KILOMETERS LONG COULD BE SEEN FROM THE AIR YESTERDAY MOVING DOWN HIGHWAY 6 TOWARD THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. MOST OF THE GROUP WERE EXPECTED TO HAVE ARRIVED THERE BY TODAY.

3. IN MILITARY ACTIVITY SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH YESTERDAY, LITTLE CHANGE WAS REPORTED IN THE FIGHTING ALONG THE EASTERN END OF THE PREK THNAOT RIVER LINE, FARTHER TO THE WEST ALONG THE SAME LINE, GOVERNMENT TROOPS ENCOUNTERED STIFF COMMUNIST RESISTANCE WHILE CONSOLIDATING THEIR CONTROL OVER GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ALONG ROUTE 201. SEVERAL LIGHT COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED ALONG THE FRONT.

4. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, GOVERNMENT UNITS CONTINUED THEIR THREE-PRONGED OFFENSIVE DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE A COMMUNIST PENETRATION IN THE AREA 15 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE CITY. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AGAINST HEAVY COMMUNIST RESISTANCE WAS REPORTED IN FIGHTING WHICH SAW FANK FORCES, SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY, PENETRATE THE ENEMY DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AND SEIZE KEY TERRAIN IN THE VICINITY OF VATT PUB PHNOM.

5. ELSEWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, SMALL GROUND ACTIONS AND LIGHT COMMUNIST ATTACKS-BY-FIRE WERE REPORTED AT KOMPONG CHAM, TAKEO, KAMPOT, AND ON ROUTE 4, TEENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU.

6. AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THOMAS O. ENDERS TODAY PRESENTED FIVE MILLION RIELS IN SPECIAL UNITED STATES EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE FEBRUARY 11 COMMUNIST ARTILLERY ATTACK ON PHNOM PENH. ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, OVER 1500 HOMES WERE DESTROYED, AND APPROXIMATELY 10,000 PEOPLE WERE MADE HOMELESS BY THE INDISCRIMINATE BOMBARDMENT. KHMER PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET RECEIVED THE CONTRIBUTION ON BEHALF OF THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AT A CEREMONY AT THE DEVASTATED SCENE OF THE ATTACK, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PHNOM 02343 161630Z

7. THE AMERICAN CHARGE ALSO PRESENTED PERSONNAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SIXTY-THREE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF TOTALLING 332, 386 RIELS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT 106 MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF HAD VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE BLOOD. IN ADDITION, MR. ENDERS PRESENTED A FIRE TRUCK WHICH HAD BEEN FLOWN INTO PHNOM PENH THIS MORNING, THE FIRST OF SEVERAL FIRE FIGHTING VEHICLES WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING TO ASSIST THE KHMER GOVERNMENT

IN PROTECTING THE CITY'S POPULATION AGAINST OTHER ENEMY
ATTACKS.

8. MR. ENDERS SAID THAT LOSSES IN LIFE AND IN PROPERTY
WHICH RESULTED FROM THE BOMBARDMENT "HAVE STIRRED THE
WORLD'S CONSCIENCE." HE POINTED OUT THAT "THE AUTHORS
OF THIS CRIME, THE COMMUNISTS AND PRINCE SIHANOUK,
ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT ON 11 FEBRUARY THEY WERE ATTACK-
ING A MILITARY OBJECTIVE. BUT WHERE IS THIS MILITARY
OBJECTIVE? WHERE IN THESE WARDS ARE THE SOLDIERS? WHERE
ARE THE WAR MATERIALS? THE TRUTH IS THAT THE OBJECTIVE
OF THIS ATTACK WAS A CIVILIAN AND PEACEFUL POPULATION:
IT WAS AN ATTACK BY TERROR AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE."

9. THE AMERICAN CHARGE DESCRIBED THE BOMBARDMENT AS AN
"INTEGRAL PART OF THE CAMPAIGN IN WHICH THE ENEMY HAS
ENGAGED ALL HIS FORCES TO CONQUER PHNOM PENH. BUT THE
ENEMY IS FAILING. HE IS LOSING THE BATTLE FOR PHNOM
PENH, AND SACRIFICING IN IT A GOOD PART OF HIS FORCES.
ALREADY HIS UNITS HAVE BEEN PUSHED OUT OF THE SOUTHEAST
SECTOR. EVEN TODAY HE IS SUFFERING A MAJOR DEFEAT TO THE
NORTHWEST OF THE CITY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ENEMY
WILL AGAIN ATTACK THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. BUT THE INITIA-
TIVE IS PASSING TO THE FANK. THE CITY IS GOING TO BE
RELIEVED."
ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, KIA, ARMED FORCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMMUNISTS, RELIEF (ASSISTANCE), FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM02343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740226/aaaaayvb.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005